Construction of tunnel under Rohtang Pass

†*157. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of the work for construction of tunnel under Rohtang Pass near Manali in Himachal Pradesh for providing an all weather road to Lahaul district, the foundation stone for which was laid by the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee;

(b) the expenditure proposed to be incurred thereon this year and the amount already incurred so far together with the total expenditure to be incurred on the project; and

(c) the time-frame or target for completion of construction work?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) to (c) The Rohtang Tunnel is part of a project for providing an all-weather alternate road from Manali to Leh. It envisages construction of an 8.82 km long tunnel under the Rohtang Pass and an alternate road of 434 kms in length, of which 292 kms has to be built. The Project was approved on 6.9.2005 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1355.82 crore. Because of the specialized tunnel design requirement, a global tender was floated and opened on 28th February 2006. Meanwhile, work on the access roads to the North and South Portals of the tunnel and the alternate road to Leh via Darcha-Padam-Nimu is in progress. A total sum of Rs. 68.59 crore has been spent on the Project so far. In the current financial year, sum of Rs. 30 crore has been provided. The time frame for comletion is 2013-2014.

Export from Tuticorin and Mangalore ports

*158. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any statistics relating to the quantity of Kerala based commodities such as cashew and marine products being exported through the Tuticorin and Mangalore ports every year and if so, the quantity thereof during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 till now;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to prepare a State-wise export statistics and make available the same to the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.